

## Message Text

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0977

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 02807

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN IRISH INDEPENDENT AUGUST 31, 1978

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE IRISH INDEPENDENT  
AUGUST 31, 1978 UNDER HEADING MASON ANGERS VISITING  
U.S. CONGRESSMEN:

TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN, ANGRY AT THL ALOOF "HANDS OFF"  
ATTITUDE OF ROY MASON AND LABOUR MINISTERS AT STORMONT,  
ANNOUNCED IN BFLFAST LAST NIGHT THAT ON THEIR RETURN  
TO WASHINGTON THEY WOULD ADVISE THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION TO PLAY A MORE DIRECT ROLE - "THE ROLE  
OF THE HONEST BROKER", - IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET A FINAL  
SOLUTION OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM.

CONGRESSMEN JOSHUA AILBERG (SIC) AND HAMILTON FISH  
ARRIVED IN BELFAST ON MONDAY, AND LAST NIGHT CONFESSED  
THAT THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR THE SPECTACLE OF WAR-  
TORN BELFAST. THFY COMPLAINED OF ATTEMPTS BY THE  
STORMONT ADMINISTRATION TO MISLEAD THEM ABOUT THE  
SITUATION, AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT LONG KESH AND  
CONDITIONS IN H BLOCK.

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- CARTER'S OFFER

CONGRESSMAN AILBERE RECALLED PRESIDENT CARTER'S OFFER  
OF ASSISTANCE TO NORTHERN IRELAND AFTER A SETTLEMENT  
SATISFACTORY TO BOTH COMMUNITIES. THE PRESIDENT, HE  
SAID, HAD SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN

VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT HE (CONGRESSMAN AILBERG) WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION THAT HE WOULD NOT INTERVENE UNTIL THERE WAS A LOCAL SETTLEMENT.

THE U.S. HE SAID, SHOULD INTEREST ITSELF MORE IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. CONGRESSMAN FISH REJECTED ROY MASON'S CHARGE OF "INTERFERENCE" IN THE AFFAIRS OF NORTHERN IRELAND. "I DON'T THINK IT IS A QUESTION OF INTERFERENCE," HE SAID, "AND THAT'S WHY I DISAGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT SAYING WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THERE IS A LOCAL SETTLEMENT.

- ROLE FOR U.S.

"I THINK FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD HERE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THE U.S. IS HELD IN SOME REGARD BY THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THERE IS A ROLE THAT WE CAN PLAY IN LOOKING TOWARDS A SOLUTION - THE ROLE OF THE HONEST BROKER."

HE SAID HE FELT THAT AMERICAN INVESTORS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO GO TO NORTHERN IRELAND WHILE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONTINUED.

CONGRESSMAN FISH COMPLAINED THAT THEIR REQUEST TO VISIT LONG KESH HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY ROY MASON.

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THEY HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN SHOWN BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS OF LONG KESH, AND HE REMARKED THAT IF THE CAMP WAS THAT BEAUTIFUL, HE COULD NOT SEE WHY THEY WERE NOT ADMITTED. SHANNON

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